

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application.

Office Action Rejections Summary

Claims 1, 2, 7-10, 15-18, 23-26, 29, 32-35, 39 and 40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2001/0052087 of Garg et al. (“Garg”) and U.S. Patent No. 6,694,364 of Du et al. (“Du”).

Claims 30, 31 and 36-38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garg and Du, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,619,656 of Graf (“Graf”).

Status of Claims

Claims 1, 2, 7-10, 15-18, 23-26 and 29-40 are pending in the application. No claims have been amended. No claims have been added. No new matter has been added. No claims have been canceled.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 7-10, 15-18, 23-26, 29, 32-35, 39 and 40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Garg and Du. In particular, the Office Action states:

As per claims 1, 9, 17, and 25, Garg teaches a method, comprising:
enabling a standard notification rule to generate a first notification upon an occurrence of a predetermined event to a first person in a hierarchy; and (Garg, paragraphs 0067, generating the notification in described in paragraphs 0076-0079)

enabling an advanced notification rule to preempt the standard notification rule upon the occurrence (Garg, paragraph 0068).

However, Garg fails to teach suspending the notification from being generated.

Du teaches a network notification suppression system that effectively suspends notifications (Du, col. 7, line 48 to column 8, line 23).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to have combined Garg and Du to provide the notification suppression of Du in the system of Garg, because doing so would provide a simple and effective method for notification suppression and would prevent excess notifications from being generated (Du, col. 3, lines 40-51 and col. 4, lines 32-34).

(Office Action, 9/28/06, pp. 2-3)(emphasis added)

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office Action analysis and characterization of Du. It is respectfully submitted that Du fails to cure the deficiencies of Garg noted in applicant's previous response filed on 6/29/2006, and that the teachings of Du are cumulative to Garg with respect to the purpose for which it is cited. More specifically, it is submitted that the "suppression" taught in Du does not "effectively suspend notifications." Rather, Du teaches the "suppression" of an alarm which is similar to the teachings of Garg of ignoring an alarm. Such is evidenced by the definition of "suppress" provide at column 9, lines 14-21 of Du, which states:

In response to a given alarm, the method defined herein will Suppress, Forward, or Check an alarm, according to the state transition that resulted from the alarm. "Suppress" means that the method will **suppress (or ignore)** the alarm. "Forward" means that the method will forward the alarm to users. "Check" means that the method will suppress the alarm if the secondary state remains unchanged, and forward it otherwise. (bold emphasis added)

As can be seen by an inspection of the above cited passage, the alarms in Du are still generated but ignored, similar to the teachings of Garg. Therefore, being merely cumulative to the teachings of Garg, Du fails to teach or suggest the limitations recited in each of independent claims 1, 9, 17 and 25, whether alone or in combination with the teachings of Garg.

Therefore, for at least the reasons given above, it is submitted that each of independent claims 1, 9, 17 and 25 (and their respective dependent claims) are patentable over a combination of the cited references.

Claims 30, 31 and 36-38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garg and Du, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,619,656 of Graf ("Graf"). It is submitted that both Graf fails to cure the deficiencies of Du and Garg noted above with respect to the respective independent claims of claims 30, 31, and 36-38. Therefore, claims 30, 31, and 36-38 are patentable over the combination of cited references.

In conclusion, applicants respectfully submit that in view of the arguments set forth herein, the applicable rejections have been overcome.

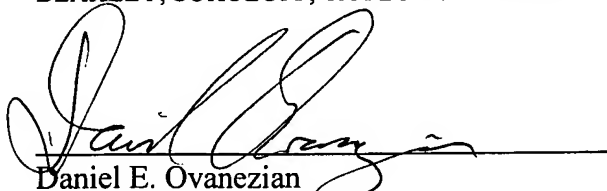
If the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Daniel Ovanezian at (408) 720-8300.

If there are any additional charges, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 10/24, 2006

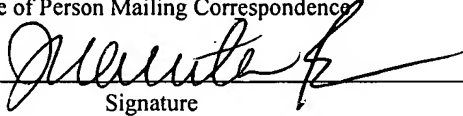

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